# The SUPERHERO Tooth Camera



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The Storybook Smile Project

Leo loved superheroes.
He loved their secret missions,
amazing gadgets, and superpowers

But today, Leo was about to discover
something even better.



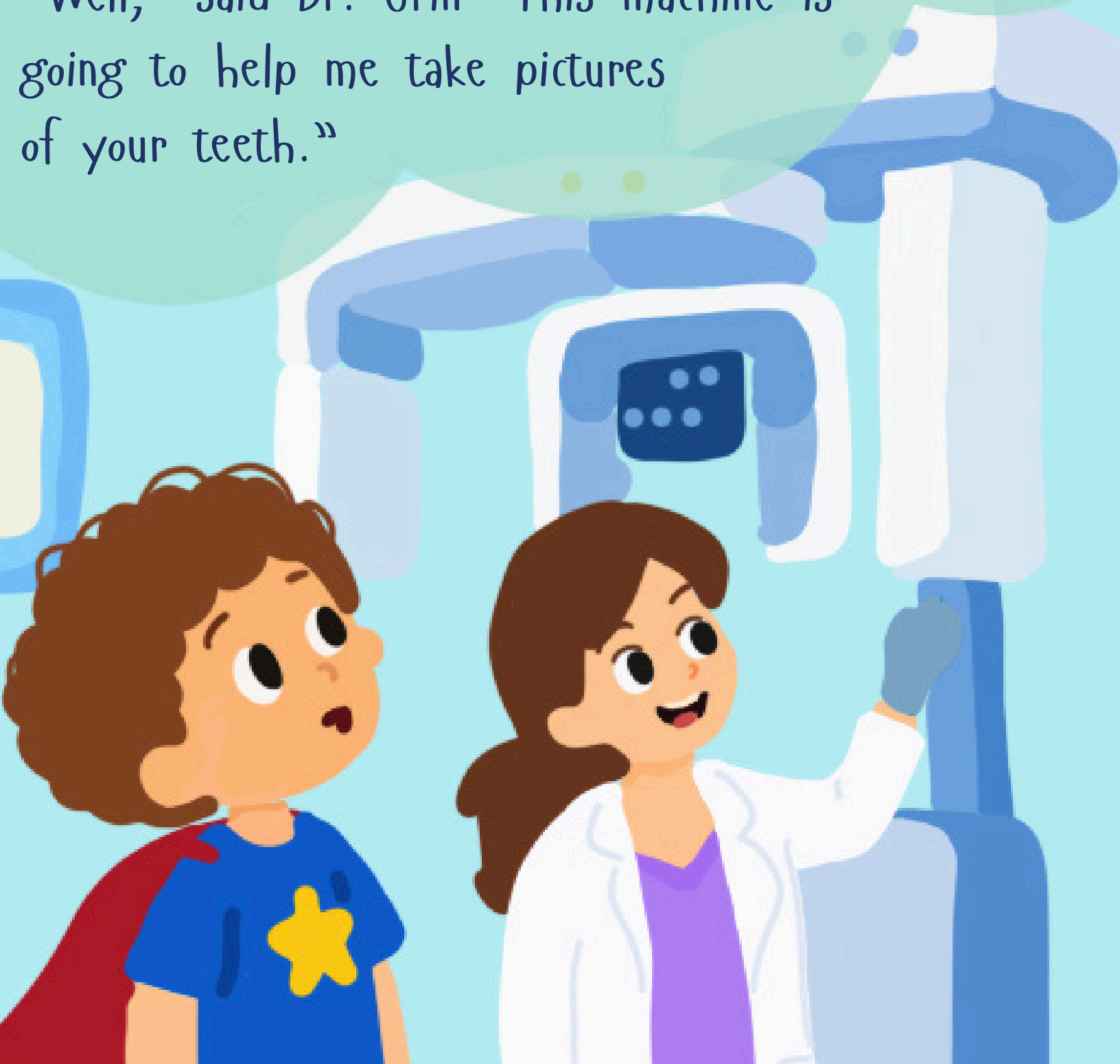
"Let's count these teeth!" said Dr. Grin
"One, two, three..."
Leo smiled.
So far, everything was
going great.



Then Dr. Grin rolled over a strange machine.

"What's THAT?" Leo asked

"Well," said Dr. Grin "This machine is going to help me take pictures of your teeth."



Leo blinked.
"Pictures?"

He looked at his teeth.
"But you can already
see them!"



Dr. Grin smiled.
"I can see the outside of your teeth,
but I can't see everything underneath."

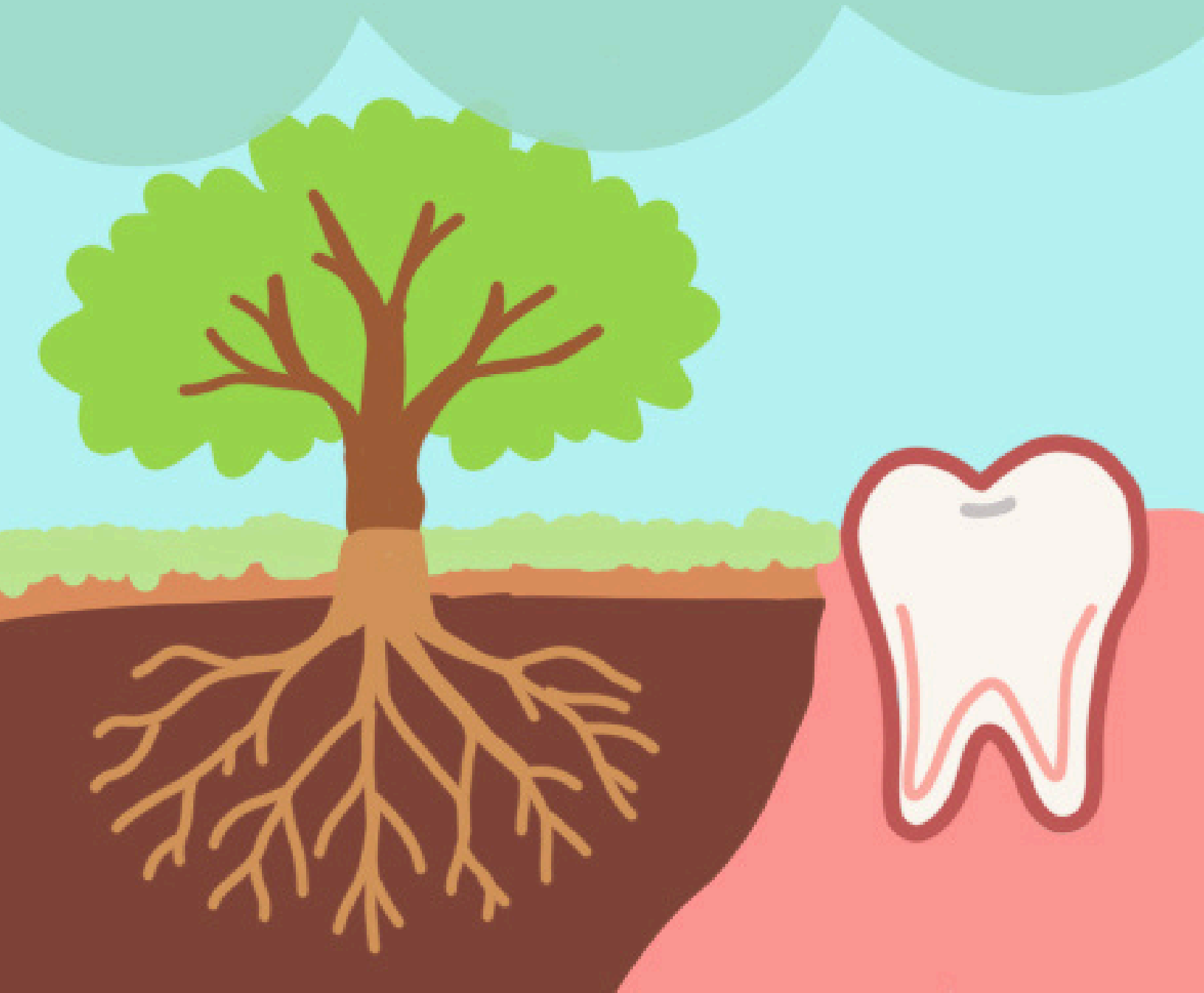
"That's why I need this machine
called an
X-ray!"



"Think about a tree," said Dr. Grin.

"You can see its trunk and branches, but its roots are hiding underground."

"Teeth are a little like that."



An X-ray can help Dr. Grin look for things she can't see just by looking in Leo's mouth.



"So," said Dr. Grin
"We're going to play a little game!"

"Oooh I like games. What game is it?" Leo asked



Dr. Grin said with a smile,
"It's called...The Statue Game!"

Leo's eyes grew wide.
"I'm great at statues!!"



"For this game, I need you to stay as still as possible...just like a superhero statue!"

Dr. Grin asked.
"Are you ready?"



Leo sat up tall.
"Ready!"
He was no longer Leo

Now he was **Super Leo!**



Then, Dr. Grin showed Leo a small bite block.

"I need you to gently bite on this piece while we take your picture."



Now, Leo made sure to stay as still as possible

The X-ray machine moved slowly around Leo's head.



No turning.
No talking.
Not even a tiny wiggle!
Leo was the mightiest statue in the whole dental office.



"Now let's see what our Superhero
Tooth Camera discovered,"
said Dr. Grin



Leo gasped

"WHOA!!"

There was his smile...but not the way he saw it in the mirror.



"Look here," said Dr. Grin.
"These are the roots of your teeth.
They're underneath your gums,
so you can't see them in a mirror."



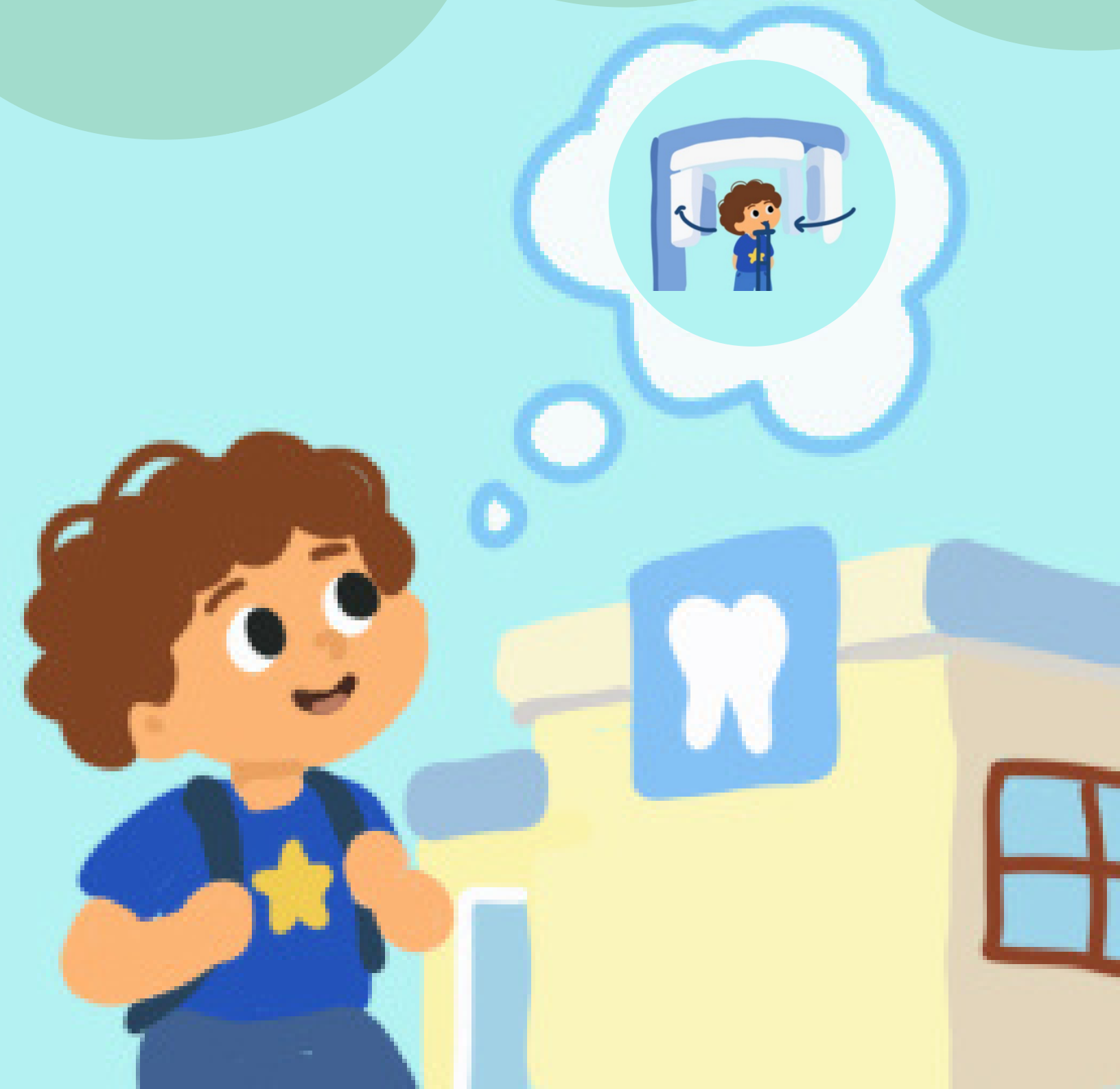
Leo finally understood.
"So you needed the X-ray because you can't see all my teeth just by looking at my smile!"

"Exactly!" said Dr. Grin.



Leo looked up at the sky and grinned.

"Who knew a trip to the dentist could be so SUPER?"



# Parent Guide

**1. Why does my child need dental X-rays?**

Dental X-rays allow dentists to see areas that cannot be examined during a regular visual checkup, including between teeth, beneath the gums, and developing adult teeth. They can help identify cavities, monitor tooth development, and detect other concerns.

**2. Are dental X-rays safe for children?**

Dental X-rays use a small amount of radiation, but modern X-ray machines and strict guidelines help minimize the risk. The amount of radiation from a typical X-ray scan is equivalent to just a few days in the natural environment.

**3. How often does my child need dental X-rays?**

There is no one-size-fits-all schedule. The frequency depends on your child's age, dental development, history of cavities, and individual risk factors. Your dentist will determine when X-rays are appropriate.

**4. Will dental X-rays hurt?**

Dental X-rays are painless. However, some children may experience temporary discomfort from holding the sensor or bite block in their mouth. The dental team can help make the experience more comfortable.

**5. Why does my child need to stay still?**

Staying still helps prevent blurry images and reduces the need to repeat an X-ray. You can explain that your child is playing the statue game, just like Leo!

**6. What happens after the X-rays are taken?**

The dentist reviews the images to look for cavities, monitor tooth development, and identify anything that may need further attention. They will discuss any findings and recommended next steps with you.

**7. Can I stay with my child during the X-ray?**

This depends on the dental office's policies and the type of X-ray being taken. Parents can ask the dental team about accompanying their child and how they can provide reassurance.

**8. How can I prepare my child for their first dental X-ray?**

Use simple, positive language to explain what will happen. Avoid words that might make the experience sound frightening. Reading a story like The Superhero Tooth Camera beforehand can help children become familiar with the process.

# Helpful Links

Below are some helpful links for more infomation!

Little Town Smiles: A Parent's Guide to Dental X Rays for Kids

A Parent's Guide to Pediatric Dental X-Rays and Oral Health Diagnosis

## Educational Disclaimer

This storybook is for educational purposes only and does not replace professional dental advice, diagnosis, or treatment. For questions about your child's dental health, please consult a qualified dental professional.